

CAA News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENSUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ❖ May 2004

Luncheon Reunion

We are tentatively planning the next reunion for Friday, October 1, 2004, in the Garden Room at Andrews Officers Club. We can only hope that when the time comes, the security situation will allow us access to the base. We must submit a list of attendees to the base security office, so you will receive a notice well before the event.

Thoughts on Getting Older

Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get. (Robert Orben)

As for me, except for the occasional heart attack, I feel as young as I ever did. (Robert Benchley)

It's more profitable for your congressman to support the tobacco industry than your life. (Jackie Mason)

Flies spread disease. Keep yours zipped. (Anonymous)

Health nuts are going to feel stupid some day, lying in hospitals dying of nothing. (Redd Foxx)

My doctor gave me 2 weeks to live. I hope they're in August. (Ronnie Shakes)

When I told my doctor I couldn't afford an operation, he offered to touch up my X-rays. (Hennie Youngman)

I knew a man who gave up smoking, drinking, sex, and rich food. He was very healthy right up to the time he killed himself. (Johnny Carson)

Source: Forbes magazine, Mar. 1, 2004

E-mail Addresses

E-mail is becoming a most useful way of communicating. Many members would appreciate having your e-mail address included in the next CAA directory. Simply send a brief message to our secretary at ezilda@erols.com and/or to the editor at gmann928@hotmail.com. While you're at it, tell us what you've been up to lately.

NOTE: The correct e-mail address for Joyce Brown is jbrown@hiwaay.net.

Free Exercise Guide for Seniors

You can order a free Exercise Guide from the National Institute on Aging at niaic@jbs1.com or by mail to NIA Information Center, P.O. Box 8057, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8057. Or you can order an exercise video, which comes with a copy of the Guide, for only \$7 from the same address, but add "Dept. F," before the P.O. Box number.

Watch the Progress

On the Web you can see up-to-date photos of the construction work for the new Census Bureau Headquarters building. The contractor has set up a webcam on top of FOB-4, and the photos are updated about every 5 minutes. Go to <http://census.earthcam.net> (do not use www), then enter census as the userid if it isn't already there, enter skanska as the password, then select the U.S. Census Bureau Headquarters link. The photos show FOB-3 on the left and the Metro parking garage on the far right.

Compound May Fight Osteoporosis

Estren, a compound that works like estrogen but with none of the side effects, has been found to prevent brittle bone disease in mice. The discovery may offer an alternative for older women who stopped hormone replacement therapy (HRT) because of the increased risks of cancer and heart disease. It will take 2 to 3 years of additional work before the compound will be ready for testing on humans, researchers at the National Institute on Aging said.

New Cancer Test Is Very Accurate

A new test for breast, lung, prostate, and gastrointestinal cancers proved 100 percent accurate in early clinical testing. It accurately detected cancers in all study participants known to have those cancers, and it also accurately reported that control patients who did not have cancer were cancer-free. The initial tests involved only 177 participants, but a bigger study, involving 4,500 people, is underway at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

News From Alumni

[If possible, please send your contribution by e-mail to gmann928@hotmail.com. Otherwise, use the Suitland mail address found elsewhere.] Lots of brief items this issue, mostly accompanying dues renewals.

Harley Bean (formerly of ASD) and his wife Jo (formerly of Business and Agriculture Divisions) say they are still living in North Carolina. In the past year they sold their home and moved into an apartment in a retirement village. They have been retired 27 years and are really enjoying it.

Danny Levine sent his thanks to all the CAA board members and to the “staff” of the newsletter. *[That would be me, Jerry.]* He says it’s a real pleasure to be reminded of the good times and all the wonderful colleagues.

Betty Mitchell says she missed the last reunion because of poor eyesight and reluctance to drive on the Beltway. [I think that applies to most of us!] She says she missed seeing and visiting with friends and coworkers.

Lettie (Lee) Butler says she enjoys the news from CAA but doesn’t know many of the alumni anymore. She still likes Florida very much because Jacksonville has a changeable climate. Even though the winter has been cold, there is no snow!

Don Schaeffer says he hasn’t attended any CAA get-togethers in the past few years because he and Sophia always seem to be out of state or out of the country traveling on those dates. He says he might make this year’s reunion if it’s before October 13, because that’s when they are scheduled to leave on an 18-day trip to Panama. He says he’s been retired over 10 years and doesn’t do “a damn thing.” But he does still donate blood. He adds that we should encourage members to renew for 2 years because “the older we get, the faster a one-year period goes.”

Mary E. Green had knee surgery in December. The knee is now great, but now her back is bothering her, so she’s getting epidural shots to control the pain and using a cane to walk. She says she thought she had retired to the “Sunny South” (South Carolina), but in January they had an ice storm and were without electricity and cable TV intermittently for several days.

Don Starsinic wrote from Lexington, KY to bring us up to date on his travels and activities. He says, “Margaret and I drove to Dodge City, KS, last June with her mother to visit where Margaret was born.

She was born at the Dodge City Army Air Base where her dad was a bomber pilot instructor in World War II. He was transferred when she was 6 months old, and she had never been back. The hospital where she was born was torn down and replaced by a supermarket, and the site of the air base is now overgrown, and part has been converted into a cattle feed lot. It is claimed that the Dodge city area has 50,000 persons and 1,000,000 cattle.

En route we visited St. Louis; the Truman library/museum in Independence, MO; St. Joseph, MO; and the Pony Express Museum, the Amelia Earhart home, and the Eisenhower library/museum in Atchison, KS. We even stopped into the Kansas Vital Statistics office in Topeka to get a copy of Margaret’s parents’ marriage certificate. It took only a half-hour! I helped my mother-in-law write a magazine article reminiscing on their Dodge City experience in World War II, and it was printed verbatim.

I’m still president of our NARFE chapter and now president of my community association, still doing three newsletters. Margaret and I are in our fourth year of tutoring reading in a local public school and ushering for Broadway musicals, ballet, and opera in the Lexington Opera House. After seven years of waiting, I got called in February to serve as a judge at our local voting precinct. We will be making our first cruise in June, up the Inner Passage of Alaska.

We returned to the DC area 2 weeks ago to visit our son Michael, and I made my usual trip in to the Bureau to visit with my old friends there. It was a shock to see all the trees gone outside the front of FOB 3, including the trees in front of wing 7 dedicated in memory of two of our librarians. Pretty soon the building itself will be just a memory.”

New Vaccine Against Cervical Cancer

A new study has found that a vaccine to protect against most forms of cervical cancer seems to be safe and effective. However, It is not intended for treatment of cervical cancer once it has attacked.

The vaccine has been tested on some 2,400 women in a study at the University of Washington in Seattle, and could be available in 5 years.

Source: New England Journal of Medicine, Nov. 21, 2002

DEATHS

[Again I ask that alumni living outside the Washington area notify us of deaths in their area.]

Hennie Rand Schneider, 81, died of a stroke December 24 at a hospital in Highland Park, IL. She was a native of Baltimore and a former Silver Spring and Rockville resident. She worked as a librarian for the Census Bureau from 1965 to 1970. Her husband, Saul Schneider, died in 1988 after 38 years of marriage. Survivors include a son, a sister, and two grandchildren.

Vance E. Clark, 74, died of cancer December 27 at Georgetown University Hospital. He worked for a short time as a public relations consultant with the Census Bureau in the 1970s. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Carter; two sons, and a brother.

Carol Ann Ellis, 61, died of cancer January 2 at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring. She was a computer assistant at the Census Bureau during the 1980s. Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Andrew Ellis; five children, two brothers, and 15 grandchildren.

Robert E. Crowther died February 17. He retired from the Bureau January 2, 1998. No other details were available.

Helen M. Collins died February 18, 2004. She suffered from Alzheimer's Disease. Helen's career with the federal government spanned many years, most of which were spent at the Census Bureau. During her tenure at Census, she served as secretary to the Director, the Associate Director for Demographic Programs, and the Chief of Population Division. Her husband, James Collins, predeceased her. Survivors include two daughters and a son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Daisy M. Williams died January 11 at her home in Murfreesboro, TN. She formerly lived in District Heights, MD. She worked at the Census Bureau for 21 years, serving in the old Administrative Services Division, then as a supervisor in the old Data User Services Division.

Gary B. Smith, formerly of the Population Analysis and Evaluation Staff in Population Division, died January 2. He worked at the Census Bureau from October 1970 to January 2000. He was a Life Member of the Morningside, MD, Volunteer Fire Department.

Carol Ann Ellis died January 2. No further

information was available.

Leon Klein, 84, died February 19 of a stroke at his home in Alexandria, VA. He came to Washington in 1940 to work as a clerk at the Census Bureau. He later worked in various government agencies, then spent 23 years with General Electric until his retirement in 1988. His wife of 49 years, Polly Knudson Klein, died in 2000. Survivors include three children and four grandchildren.

David C. Koch, 74, died of cancer February 2 at his daughter's home in Coupeville, WA. He began his government career in 1958 when he joined the Census Bureau. Subsequently, he worked for various Commerce agencies and retired as a deputy director in the Office of Minority Business Enterprise. He served as an Army tank commander during the Korean War and received the Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and a Silver Star. Survivors include two daughters, a son, two sisters, and two grandchildren.

Dorothy L. Bogle died October 8, 2003. She had been living in Viroqua, VA. She had been in Personnel Division.

Walter Buhl, 90, died May 4, 2003, at his residence in Frederick, MD. He had been an assistant division chief in the Transportation Division. Survivors include his wife Phyllis, two children, seven grandsons, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Vancil Y. (Vance) Kane, 72, died of complications of a heart attack on March 1 at Milford Memorial Hospital in Milford, DE. He also had bone marrow cancer. He went to work for the Census Bureau in 1969 and retired after a 20-year career in a variety of management positions within Governments Division. Survivors include his wife of 15 years, Judy; three sons; a brother; a stepbrother; and three grandchildren.

Robert L. (Bob) Allen died March 12, surrounded by his wife Karen, son Robbie, and daughter April. Bob had just recently been diagnosed with cancer and was in the care of hospice. During over 30 years of service to the U. S. Census Bureau, Bob participated in the 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Decennial Censuses. He served as a District Office Manager in Buffalo, NY, for the 1970 Census; as the Processing Office Manager in Michoud, LA, for the 1980 Census; as the Assistant Manager for Administration in the Austin, TX, Processing Office for the 1990 Census; and as a Decennial Specialist leasing over 1,000 offices for the 2000 Census, retiring as an Administrative Regional Technician

working out of the Dallas, TX, Regional Office for the 2000 Decennial Census. Between censuses, Bob worked at both the National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN, and at Census headquarters in Suitland, MD. Bob retired from the Census Bureau after the 1980 Census to open his own business, but he returned to the Bureau for the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

Clem Scanlon (TCO) retired from the Bureau on January 3, 2003, and died on March 19, 2004. No further details were available.

Zelma Lorraine Steele Pace, 101, died of congestive heart disease February 29 at her home at the Arleigh Burke Pavilion in McLean, VA. She came to the Washington area in 1922 and later worked for the Census Bureau and the War Department. Survivors include a son, a daughter, six grand-children, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mary Ellen Burkard Davis, 42, died of cancer March 26 at Inova Fairfax Hospital, VA. She began her career at the Bureau in 1983 in the Systems Support Division, then joined the management information branch of the Decennial Planning Division in 1986. She played a leading role in developing the management information system for the 1990 census. Since 1994 she had worked on the American Community Survey. In 1999 she became chief of the planning, testing, and requirements staff, working on many critical data releases for the survey. Survivors include her husband of 18 years, David, four children, two sisters, and three brothers.

Nicholas Preftakes, 74, died January 24 after battling anaplastic thyroid cancer for almost a year. He was the art director in the old Administrative and Publications Services Division from 1968 to 1991, when he retired. Before coming to the Bureau, he worked as a commercial artist for several years. He was in the Air Force during the Korean War, then attended the Corcoran School of Art. He enjoyed traveling and working with art programs on the computer. Survivors include his companion of 23 years, Ruth Doherty, and a great number of friends.

Robert Schulman, 79, died of heart complications resulting from cancer on March 20 at his home in Annapolis. He was the assistant art director (working with Nick Preftakes, mentioned above) at the Census Bureau from 1968 to 1975. He joined NASA in 1975 to design the agency’s corporate identity program, for which he received a Presidential Award. He was president of the Federal Design Council in

Washington in 1978. At the time of his death, he was fine arts curator at NASA and a widely exhibited painter. Survivors include his wife, Theodora, a son, two daughters, a brother, and five grandchildren.

All About Government

Just about anything you need to know about or get from any part of the federal government is accessible from www.firstgov.gov, a sophisticated search site.

The site’s contents are available in English, Spanish, and 24 other languages. It includes direct links to all government agencies. You can get information and help about almost any topic, including regulations, forms, and reference materials. Be sure to bookmark this site.

Why a Duck?

With the homeland security agency advising everyone to stock up on duct tape and plastic sheeting, the question has again arisen: Is it duct tape or duck tape? If you think only ignorant people call it duck tape, the answer may not fit your preconception.

An article by William Safire in *The New York Times Magazine* delves into the origins of this wondrous material. He says it was developed in the early 1940s for the U.S. Army by Johnson & Johnson and was called duck tape because it shed water like a duck.

Safire believes it was first called duct tape in 1970 when a failing company had to unload 14,000 rolls of the stuff, and advertised it as useful for sealing joints in heating ducts. Not long afterward, the Henkel Consumer Adhesives Company registered the name “Duck brand duct tape,” which is now the top brand in the United States. So call it whatever you like!

CAA News is published three times a year by the Census Alumni Association; Jerry Mann, editor.

Deadlines for submissions:

January issue Dec. 10
May issue Apr. 10
September issue Aug. 10

Your contributions are welcome on any subject of interest to former Census Bureau employees, especially news of yourselves and your families. Please send contributions to gmann928@hotmail.com or to CAA, P.O. Box 1480, Suitland, MD 20752. (E-mail is preferred.)